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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/539,290	06/16/2005	Kenji Sato	017525-0187	2470
22428	7590	03/06/2008	EXAMINER	
FOLEY AND LARDNER LLP			LAVARIAS, ARNEL C	
SUITE 500			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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WASHINGTON, DC 20007			MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
			03/06/2008	PAPER

**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	<b>Application No.</b> 10/539,290	<b>Applicant(s)</b> SATO, KENJI
	<b>Examiner</b> Arnel C. Lavarrias	<b>Art Unit</b> 2872

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --  
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 1 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If no period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED. (35 U.S.C. § 133).

Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

#### Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on \_\_\_\_.
- 2a) This action is FINAL.      2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

#### Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-39 is/are pending in the application.
  - 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) 1-39 are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

#### Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

#### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
  - a) All    b) Some \* c) None of:
    1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
    2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_.
    3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

#### Attachment(s)

- 1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) \_\_\_\_\_  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
- 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. \_\_\_\_\_
- 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**DETAILED ACTION**

***Election/Restrictions***

1. Restriction is required under 35 U.S.C. 121 and 372.

This application contains the following inventions or groups of inventions which are not so linked as to form a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1.

In accordance with 37 CFR 1.499, applicant is required, in reply to this action, to elect a single invention to which the claims must be restricted.

Group I, Claim(s) 1, 4, 8, 11, 14, 35, drawn to a light dispersion filter, wherein the reflectivity is highest on a partially reflective layer disposed near the center of said light dispersion filter in a direction of thickness of said light dispersion filter, and the reflectivities of the respective partially reflective layers are gradually lower toward both end faces of said light dispersion filter.

Group II, Claim(s) 2-3, 5, 7, 9, 12, 15, 36, drawn to a light dispersion filter, wherein said etalon resonators are arranged in series such that the value of the product of the refractive index of air and an interval of said etalon resonators is equal to the value of the product of the refractive index and thickness of said optically transparent layer.

Group III, Claim(s) 6, 10, 13, 16, 37, drawn to a light dispersion filter, wherein the reflectivities of said partially reflective layers are gradually higher from a light incident plane side for said light dispersion filter to a last end face on the opposite side to said incident plane.

Group IV, Claim(s) 17, 23, 27, 31, drawn to an optical module, including an optical fiber serving as an optical signal transmission medium; and a transmission type light dispersion filter disposed on an optical axis connecting said optical active element to said optical fiber for compensating for dispersion in said optical fiber.

Group V, Claim(s) 18, 24, 28, 32, drawn to an optical module, including an optical connector for removably fixing an optical fiber serving as an optical signal transmission medium; and a transmission type light dispersion filter disposed on an optical axis connecting said optical active element to said optical fiber for compensating for dispersion in said optical fiber.

Group VI, Claim(s) 19, 21, 25, 29, 33, drawn to an optical module, including a reflection type light dispersion filter for compensating for dispersion in said optical fiber; and an optical active element disposed at a location deviated from an optical axis connecting said optical fiber to said light dispersion filter, for use in optical communications.

Group VII, Claim(s) 20, 22, 26, 30, 34, drawn to an optical module, including a reflection type light dispersion filter for compensating for dispersion given in said optical fiber; and an optical active element disposed at a location deviated from an optical axis connecting said optical fiber to said light dispersion filter, said optical active element being for use in optical communications.

Group VIII, Claim(s) 38-39, drawn to a communication channel, including light dispersion filter having a free spectral range set wider than the frequency interval.

2. The inventions listed as Groups I, II, III, IV, V, VI, VII, and VIII do not relate to a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1 because, under PCT Rule 13.2, they lack the same or corresponding special technical features for the following reasons:

For each of Groups I-VIII, each of the listed groups has special technical features not required for the other groups. The special technical features exclusive to each group are listed above in the listing of the groups.

3. A telephone call was made to David A. Blumenthal (202-672-5407) on 2/27/08 to request an oral election to the above restriction requirement, but did not result in an election being made.

Applicant is advised that the reply to this requirement to be complete must include (i) an election of a species or invention to be examined even though the requirement may be traversed (37 CFR 1.143) and (ii) identification of the claims encompassing the elected invention.

The election of an invention or species may be made with or without traverse. To preserve a right to petition, the election must be made with traverse. If the reply does not distinctly and specifically point out supposed errors in the restriction requirement, the election shall be treated as an election without traverse.

4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Arnel C. Lavaras whose telephone number is 571-272-2315. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 10:00 AM - 6:30 PM EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Stephone B. Allen can be reached on 571-272-2434. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Arnel C. Lavaras  
Primary Examiner  
Group Art Unit 2872  
2/27/08

/Arnel C. Lavaras/  
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2872